

REMARKS

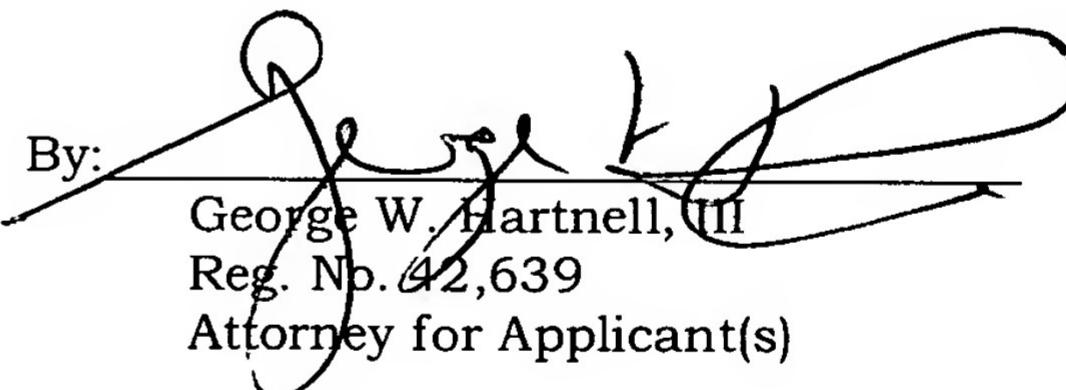
Claims 1 through 9 are pending in the subject application. Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). Claims 1-5 have been canceled. Claims 6-9 have been allowed.

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the subject application and respectfully request reconsideration of the subject application based on the above amendment. Claims 6-9 have been allowed and satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 100, et seq. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in a condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is requested.

The Applicants believe that no additional fee is required for consideration of the within Amendment. However, if for any reason the fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. **04-1105**.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 11, 2003

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